Transparency in JUDICIARY

365. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious enough to make judiciary transparent, accountable and corruption free;

(b) whether judges are willing to declare their assets and liabilities despite Governmentus persistence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Writ Petition (C) No. 288/09 filed on behalf of the Honuble Supreme Court in the Delhi High Court, challenging the order dated 6th January, 2009 passed by the Central Information Commission under the Right to Information Act, 2005, it has been asserted on behalf of Supreme Court that the judiciary has no objection to disclosure of assets of judges provided this is done in a formal manner by an Act of Parliament with adequate safeguards. It has been, *inter alia*, stated therein that "the Learned Judges of the Supreme Court are not opposed to declaring their assets provided that such declarations are made in accordance with due procedure laid down by a law which would prescribe (a) the authority to which the declaration would be made; (b) the form in which the declaration would have to be made along with a clear definition of what constitutes uassetsu; and (c) proper safeguards, checks and balances to prevent misuse of the information which would be made available".

In this regard, the Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation to ensure standard and accountability in the higher judiciary.

Implementation of Gram Nyayalaya Act

366. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to implement the Gram Nyayalaya Act;

(b) how many States have responded so far; and

(c) if none, what steps would be taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has brought the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 into force *w.e.f.* October 2, 2009. The Government has also requested the State Governments to operationalize the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 and set up these courts in their respective States. The Central Government has also decided to provide financial assistance to the States for establishing the Gram Nyayalayas and for operating the same during the first three years. The Central Government would bear the non-recurring cost of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00

lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government would also bear 50% of Rs.6.40 lakhs per annum as recurring cost per Gram Nyayalaya for the first three years. 11 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have responded so far in this regard.

Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices

367. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed serious concern over huge number of pending court cases and called upon judiciary and executive to work together to eliminate this scourge;

(b) if so, the other main points discussed during the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices on the 16th August, 2009;

(c) whether corruption in judiciary was also discussed; and

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been prepared by Government to implement decisions taken in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The main points discussed during the Conference are given below:

1. Operationalization of Gram Nyayalayas,
2. Progress made in setting-up of fast track courts of magistrates and fast track civil courts and continuation of fast track courts,
3. Progress made in setting-up and functioning of evening/morning courts in subordinate courts and setting up of more courts - (A) CBI courts and (B) Family Courts,
4. Introducing judicial reforms through the following measures: (a) formation of All India Judicial Service, (B) Management training for judicial officers,
5. Progress made in the implementation of the ICT enablement of the courts- Establishment of E-Courts with Special emphasis on- (A) Total involvement of the State Government machinery for site preparation, (B) Commitment on meeting the expenditure on technical manpower beyond the period supported by the central government and recurring expenditure on AMCS and power back-up, (C) Definition of information flows in the courts, ownership of information and dissemination channels,
6. Progress made in development of the infrastructure of subordinate courts,
7. Steps required to be taken for reduction of arrears and ensuring the speedy trial,